of 962,000 tonnes per annum to 1.8 million tonnes annum by 1987-88.

(b) According to estimates in the Oil Economy Budget proposal for 1985-86 LPG supply will be 1.188 million tonnes against a damand of 1.250 million tonnes, leaving a gap of 62,000 million tonnes.

Release of LPG connections

669. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cooking gas connections released during the last two years; year-wise;

(b) whether a large number of persons have been on the waiting list for LPG connections: and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The oil companies have released about 16.50 lakh and 15 lakh LPG (cooking gas) connections during 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Oil Companies have planned to release 17.5 lakh gas connections during 1985-86. Release of new LPG connections in future years would be made keeping in view LPG availability, augmentation of bottling capacity, and other infrastructure facilities.

Demand for petroleum products in domestic market

670. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated demand for petroleum products in the domestic market by the end of the Seventh Five-Year Plan period;

(b) whether the production of crude is likely to meet the demands of petroleum products during the same period; and

(c) if not, what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to obviate the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) About 54 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The shortfall is expected to be met by import of crude and petroleum products.

Press telegrams despatched by Journalists

671. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Press telegrams were despatched by the Journalists from Eastern Court telegraph office and P.I.B. Telegraph Office late in the evening on the 8th July, 1985; and some of them were detained; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; indicating the reasons for detaining these telegrams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) On 8-7-1985 a total of Six press telegrams, three each from Eastern Court and Shastri Bhawan PIB Telegraph offices, had been despatched by Journalists. None of these had been detained.

(b) Does not arise, Sir.